

ATTACHMENT A
REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 – 5, 9 – 19 and 23 – 28 are pending. In an effort to advance the prosecution of this matter, claims 1, 3 – 5, 9 – 12, 19, 23 and 25 – 28 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed subject matter, and claims 6 – 8, 20 - 22 and 29 – 34 have been canceled.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are allowable over the known prior art. Further explanation is provided below.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 – 15, 17, 19, 24 and 29 – 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dudkowski (U.S. Patent No. 7,006,154) in view of Silfvast (U.S. Patent No. 6,728,382) in further view of Richards (U.S. Patent No. 5,181,114).

Claim 1, as amended, recites an audio mixing console comprising:

a plurality of input connectors for receiving a plurality video signals for broadcast;

a plurality of input connectors for receiving a plurality of audio signals for broadcast;

a control panel that includes a plurality of user operable audio channel controls, wherein each of said user operable audio channel controls is operable to select a predetermined audio processing function for a respective one of said audio signals for broadcast;

a plurality of discrete display monitors that are integral to the audio mixing console, each monitor for displaying a discrete one of said plurality of video signals for broadcast; and

a signal processing unit operably connected to said control panel for generating an audio output signal.

Dudkowski discloses a system and method for editing video signals, including a mixer for generating a real-time output video signal and a real-time output audio signal, a single display monitor for simultaneously displaying a plurality of input video signals and the output video signal in a split-screen format. Col. 3, lines 3 – 22; and col. 3, lines 53 – 61. Also, the system is dimensioned to be easily stored as carry on luggage on an airplane. Col. 4, lines 1 – 2.

Silfvast is merely cited as disclosing “a control panel that includes a plurality of user operable audio channel controls, wherein each of said user operable audio channel controls is operable to select a predetermined audio processing function for a respective audio channel (Figures 3 and 4).”

Richards is cited as disclosing the concept of “a separate monitor for the preview video and a separate monitor for the video signal for broadcast.”

Preliminarily, it is noted that Dudkowski is a suitcase system designed for video production by a single video operator. The “suitcase” design is a primary teachings of the disclosure, providing advantages of being “portable” and “cost-efficient since it does not rely on expensive TV truck analog equipment and the accompanying man power needed to operate the equipment.” Col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 8. The audio portion disclosed in Dudkowski is not designed or operable to be run by a second “audio operator,” and the single video operator will be fully occupied with the video production, with audio just following the video.

Silfvast, on the other hand, discloses a full, multi-channel audio mixing console, such as used in the music industry and other industries to produce professional quality

audio productions. Col. 1, lines 22 – 24. The audio console of Silfvast is designed to be operated by an “audio operator” with no video production responsibilities.

It is respectfully submitted that there would be no rational reason for one of ordinary skill at the time the current invention was made to modify the suitcase video production system of Dukowski to include the “plurality of user operable audio channel controls, wherein each of said user operable audio channel controls is operable to select a predetermined audio processing function for a respective audio channel” of Silfvast, as such a combination would render the system of Dukowski unsatisfactory for its intended purposes of being “portable” (i.e. a suitcase system) and “cost-efficient” (i.e. operable by a single “video operator”).

However, even if Dukowski and Silfvast were properly combinable with each other and with Richards, it is respectfully submitted that the proposed combination fails to teach all of the claim limitations of claim 1 as amended.

As mentioned above, Dukowski discloses a single display monitor for simultaneously displaying a plurality of input video signals and an output video signal in a split-screen format. Col. 3, lines 3 – 22; and col. 3, lines 53 – 61. Additionally, Dukowski states that the “single monitor” is a “key advantage of the present invention [in] that … the present invention includes a single monitor, instead of multiple monitors.” Col. 4, lines 3 – 7. Thus, Dukowski fails to teach a plurality of discrete display monitors integral to the audio mixing console, as recited in claim 1, and, further, teaches away from such a plurality of discrete display monitors in that a “key advantage” of Dukowski is that it does not include multiple monitors.

Silfvast also does not teach a plurality of discrete display monitors, as recited in claim 1.

With respect to Richards, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 does not recite separate, dedicated “preview video” and “video signal for broadcast” monitors, but, rather recites a plurality of discrete monitors for displaying a discrete one of a plurality of video signals for broadcast.

Thus, even if combined, it is respectfully submitted that Dudkowski, Silfvast and Richards do not teach all of the claim limitations of claim 1 as amended.

Claims 3, 4, 9 – 15, 17, 19, and 24 depend from claim 1, and are allowable for at least the reasons provided in support of the allowability of claim 1.

Further, claim 19 has been amended to include aspects of previous claims 21 and 22. Claims 20 – 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dudkowski in view of Silfvast in view of Richards (U.S. Patent No. 5,181,114) in further view of Davis (U.S. Patent No. 5,454,041).

As amended, claim 19 recites “three tallies associated with each display monitor and integral to the audio mixing console, wherein a first tally functions as an indicator that the associated monitor is currently a program preview display, a second tally functions as an indicator that the associated monitor is currently a program out display, and a third tally functions as an indicator that an audio channel linked to the associated display is the audio output signal.”

The recited configuration of discrete display monitors and tallies therefore enables an operator to easily confirm that a video signal and audio channel are properly paired as the current “video program out” and “audio output” on-air broadcast, and to

make any necessary preparations to another audio channel associated with the video signal indicated as the next video signal to be the “video program out” signal (i.e., the “program preview” signal).

Dudkowski is cited in the Office Action as disclosing a “tally system that sends visual “on-air” indicators to camera operators.” Col. 8, lines 9 – 13. It is respectfully submitted that Dudkowski does not disclose three tallies per display monitor, as recited in amended claim 19.

Richards is cited as disclosing the concept of “a separate monitor for the preview video and a separate monitor for the video signal for broadcast.” It is respectfully submitted that claim 19 does not recite separate, dedicated “preview video” and “video signal for broadcast” monitors, but, rather recites a plurality of discrete monitors displaying a plurality of video signals, where first and second tallies are used to indicate which of the discrete monitors are functioning as “preview” and “program out” displays at any given instant in time.

Davis is cited as disclosing “a mixing console having a plurality of tallies (144, 146) which have an LED indicator for indicating the live output.” However, it is respectfully submitted that the tallies described in Davis are “signs near a corresponding microphone which illuminate when a high logic signal is output to a relay” (col. 5, lines 11 – 12), indicating that the microphone is currently “on air” to help prevent unwanted remarks, comments, or noise from inadvertently being broadcast (col. 1, lines 26 – 29). It is respectfully submitted that “signs near a microphone indicating that the microphone is ‘on air’ do not equate to the “three tallies per display monitor” configuration as recited in amended claim 19.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the audio mixing console as recited in claim 19 is patentable over the combination of references cited in the Office Action.

Claims 2, 5, 7, 16, 18 and 25 – 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dudkowski in view of Silfvast in view of Richards in further view of Brunelle (U.S. Patent No. 5,608,807).

Brunelle is cited as disclosing an audio mixer comprising a meter bridge that corresponds to a channel control function.

Claims 2, 5, 16 and 18 depend from claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that Brunelle, even if properly combinable with Dudkowski, Silfvast and Richards, does not overcome the deficiencies of Dudkowski, Silfvast and Richards, as described above. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 5, 16 and 18 are allowable for at least the reasons provided above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 25 recites an audio mixing console having, *inter alia*, a plurality of discrete display monitors and three tallies per display monitor. Claims 26 – 28 depend from claim 25.

For at least the reasons provided with respect to the plurality of discrete display monitors of claim 1 and the three tallies per display monitor of claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that claims 25 – 28 are also allowable over the cited references.

From the foregoing, further and favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowability is requested, and such action is believed to be in order.

If there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the above signed representative at the number listed.